



# SMHS Board Communiqué

*Excellent health care, every time*

## July 2025 meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) on Monday 28 July 2025.

At the beginning of the meeting, Board member Yvonne Parnell acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting, extending that respect to all First Nations people present. Yvonne reflected on her attendance at NAIDOC Week events held across SMHS sites, and particularly the screening of *Genocide in the Wildflower State* documentary at FSH. Yvonne shared the strong emotional response from people in the room at the end of the film, which was a painful demonstration of the measure of impact on Aboriginal people to this day. The Board agreed that while SMHS has implemented many initiatives such as the Aboriginal Health Practitioners and the Boodjari Bidi clinic, there is still far more to be done in closing the gap.

The Board invited Mr Ray Harrison, SMHS General Counsel to the meeting to provide insight into the role and responsibilities, which provided a valuable conversation in understanding the breadth of work of the legal team.



During my Chair report, I formally congratulated Mr Neil Doverly on his appointment to the Chief Executive role. After acting in the position since the beginning of the year, I am pleased that Neil will continue leading the organisation.

I reflected on my recent personal trip to Singapore where I also took the opportunity to meet with SingHealth senior leaders as part of our ongoing strategic relationship with SMHS.

I also thanked Sue Le Souef for representing the Board at the inaugural Peel Health Campus Bindjareb Awards, which coincided with the upcoming 12-month anniversary of PHC's transition to SMHS (*Pictured left: Executive Director PHC Kellie Blyth and Board member, Sue Le Souef*).

In the Chief Executive's report, Neil Doverly provided updates on:

- Executive recruitment progress; and
- SMHS winter plan initiatives update.

The Board Committee Chairs shared updates on items considered at their July 2025 meetings:

- The Safety and Quality Committee received a quality improvement presentation on improving the onboarding and orientation experience of Allied Health staff joining the Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group and endorsed the SMHS Research Report 2024. The Committee also reviewed the regular safety and quality performance indicators.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the June financial performance reports and end of year position, and considered the contract management procurement and exception reports.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the quarterly work health and safety report and received an update from the Office of the Auditor General representative. The Committee also discussed the audit log, risk register and integrity and ethics updates.



Blue and purple flowers such as the blueberry lily and purple flag emerge. As Makuru ends, these blue flowers make way for the white and cream flowers of Djilba such as the weeping peppermint.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 25 August 2025 at FSH.

**Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins**  
**Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service**

**4 August 2025**